

## Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 253

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1490

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OEXC, FI

SUBJECT: US VISIT OF METALWORKERS CHAIRMAN PENTTILA: REQUEST  
FOR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE

REF: HELSINKI 1382

1. TRIP TO US BY CHAIRMAN OF FINNISH METALWORKERS' UNION  
SULO PENTTILA AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAJ LAXEN HAS  
NOW FIRMED UP. THEY ARRIVE IN NEW YORK AUGUST 30 BY  
FINNAIR. PROGRAM IN NEW YORK BEING COORDINATED BY FORMER  
INTERNATION SECRETARY OF FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERA-  
TION KARI TAPIOLA, WHO NOW WORKS WITH UN'S CENTER ON  
TRANSNATION CORPORATIONS. PENTTILA AND LAXEN FLY TO  
DETROIT SEPTEMBER 3 (WHERE UAW WILL HOST) AND THEN TO  
MIAMI SEPTEMBER 5 FOR IAM CONVENTION. THEY ARRIVE IN  
WASHINGTON DC MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 10 BY AIR FROM MIAMI.  
THEY HOPE TO TAKE LATE AFTERNOON METROLINER TO NEW YORK  
SEPTEMBER 13 RETURN TO FINLAND FROM NEW YORK EVENING  
SEPTEMBER 14.

2. LAXEN HAS ASKED EMBASSY'S HELP IN ARRANGING A FEW  
MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 10 AND 13 WITH LABOR  
LEADERS AND A DEMOCRATIC POLITICIAN CLOSELY IDENTIFIED  
WITH LABOR. LAXEN ALSO ASKED THAT SOME TIME BE  
RESERVED FOR FINNISH EMBASSY WHICH HAS BEEN INFORMMED  
OF VISIT.

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3. EMBASSY REQUESTS FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN

MAKING REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS. WE RECOMMEND CALL AT AFL-CIO AND HEADQUARTERS OF INTERNATIONAL UNION (PERHAPS IUE OR MINeworkERS -- SINCE FINNISH METALWORKERS HAVE MEMBERS IN BOTH INDUSTRIES BUT HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT IN THE PAST). ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS CWA, WHOSE PRESIDENT GLENN WATTS VISITED FINLAND AND METALWORKERS LAST SUMMER (HELSINKI'S A-146/ 7/24/75). WE HAVE CAUTIONED LAXEN THAT VISIT WITH POLITICIAN MAY BE DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE ON FRIDAY OR MONDAY BUT STRONGLY ENDORSE HIS REQUEST AND HOPE SUITABLE SENATOR OR CONGRESSMAN AVAILABLE. PENTTILA AND LAXEN WOULD ALSO BE DELIGHTED TO MEET WITH STATE AND LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS TIME ALLOWS. WE ASSUME FINNISH EMBASSY WILL TAKE CARE OF WEEKEND AND RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF ALL PROPOSED APPOINTMENTS.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE PRELIMINARY RESPONSE BY AUGUST 2 IN TIME FOR LABATT'S FAREWELL MEETING WITH PENTTILA AUGUST 3.  
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